



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Phone: (703) 482-7676

5 March 1987

Meg Greenfield
Editor of the Editorial Page
THE WASHINGTON POST
1150 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20071

Dear Meg:

The Agency would appreciate you publishing the following in your "Letters to the Editor."

THE WASHINGTON POST article on 5 March, "Hunt Begins for New CIA Chief," incorrectly states that during his confirmation hearings last month Acting Director Gates "refused to say flatly he would resign if ordered to do something illegal."

We have reviewed carefully the transcript of Mr. Gates' hearings. He was never asked if he would resign in the event he were asked to commit an illegality. If the question had been put to him, he would have replied that he would indeed resign rather than carry out an illegal act.

The POST's writers should strive for greater accuracy in their reporting on matters of such import.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George V. Lauder".

George V. Lauder
Director, Public Affairs